

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Zuniga et al. Art Unit : Unknown
Serial No. : Unassigned Examiner : Unknown
Filed : Herewith
Title : METHODS FOR A MULTILAYER RETAINING RING

MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant submits the references listed on the attached form PTO-1449.

Under 35 USC §120, this application relies on the earlier filing date of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/848,830, filed on May 3, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/090,679, filed June 3, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,251,215.

The following references were submitted to and/or cited by the Office in the prior application and, therefore, are not provided in this application, with the exception of AP-AFF


Desig. IDs:

AA-AN and AP

This statement is being filed with the application. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/15/04



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| Substitute Form PTO-1449 (Modified) | U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney's Docket No. 2834C2-303003 | Application No. Unassigned |
| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Zuniga et al. | |
| | | Filing Date Herewith | Group Art Unit Unassigned |

U.S. Patent Documents

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Patentee | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
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Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
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| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | AQ | EP 0 776 730 A1 | 06/04/97 | EP | | | | |
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| | AW | 0 988 931 A2 | 03/29/00 | EPO | | | | |
| | AX | 2 307 342 A | 05/21/97 | Great Britain | | | | |

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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |

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| Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (Use several sheets if necessary) (37 CFR §1.98(b)) | | Applicant Zuniga et al. | |
| | | Filing Date Herewith | Group Art Unit Unassigned |

Foreign Patent Documents or Published Foreign Patent Applications

| Examiner Initial | Desig. ID | Document Number | Publication Date | Country or Patent Office | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
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| | | | | | | | Yes | No |
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| Examiner Signature | Date Considered |
| EXAMINER: Initials citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |